

CHILDREN, YOUNG MEN AND FATHERS

1 John 2:12-14

Obedience/moral test

Love/social test

Matt Hen: *We have the address itself made to the various forms and ranks in the church of Christ. All Christians are not of the same standing and stature; there are babes in Christ, there are grown men, and old disciples. As these have their peculiar states, so they have their peculiar duties; but there are precepts and a correspondent obedience common to them all, as particularly mutual love and contempt of the world.*

I. Little Children. 1 John 2:12; 13b

Little children...babes in Christ. Haven't grown spiritually because of time or negligence.

1 Cor 3:2 Only able to digest milk and not meat

Still learning rudiments/simple doctrines

1 Cor 3:3... envy, strife, divisions.

... because your sins are forgiven Concerned about sin issue.

...for His names sake.. Because of authority behind name of Jesus my sins are forgiven. Acts 4:12; 10:43; Rom 10:13; Phil 2:9-10

✚ Positionally, every sin I have ever committed and ever will commit is washed in the blood of Jesus.

✚ Practically, every day I deal with the sin issue. 1 Jn 1:9

1. Forgiveness...*your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.*

2. Fellowship with God. *...because ye have known the Father.*

Charles H. Spurgeon saved at an early age: *When my eyes first looked to Christ, He was a very real Christ to me; and when my burden of sin rolled from off my back, it was a real pardon and a real release from sin to me; and when that day I said for the first time, "Jesus Christ is mine," it was a real possession of Christ to me. When I went up to the sanctuary in that early dawn of youthful piety, every song was really a psalm, and when there was a prayer, oh, how I followed every word! It was prayer indeed! And so was it, too, in silent quietude, when I drew near to God, it was not mockery, no routine, no matter of mere duty; it was a real taking with my Father who is in Heaven.*

II. Fathers. 1 John 2:13-

Fathers: older in faith and characterized by spiritual maturity.

Possibly people of authority and leadership as well as mature individuals.

Heibert: *These are the ones who had come into a personal knowledge of Christ in the past and now possess an abiding knowledge of Him.*

From the beginning: permanency; no wavering now! May be referring to those who had become Christians when the Word was first preached in

Judea and in Asia Minor. May be referring to those who now are steadily and consistently growing and continually going on in relationship with Father.

III. Young Men.

Fathers are known for knowledge & experience while young men known for activity and adventure in spiritual warfare.

FF Bruce: *They are the believers who have reached a stage of spiritual development where they are expected to bear the burden and heat of the day; they are the church's first line of defense against attack...*

Stott: *These are the ones "busily involved in the battle of Christian living. The Christian life, then, is not just enjoying the forgiveness and the fellowship of God, but fighting the enemy.*

1 John 2:13-14 ye have overcome the wicked one.

Victorious! Overcomers!

Strong: mighty, powerful, valiant.

...ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, Taken offensive weapon, the Sword of the Spirit (Eph 6:17) and combined it with target prayer and pushed themselves up to the battle front.

Abideth in you: practically applying, living out the Word of God.

Observations.

1. We can still learn & grow
2. Understand where people are coming from.
3. If a baby Christian ... know that there's a battle to be won. Key: saturate yourself with Word of God